

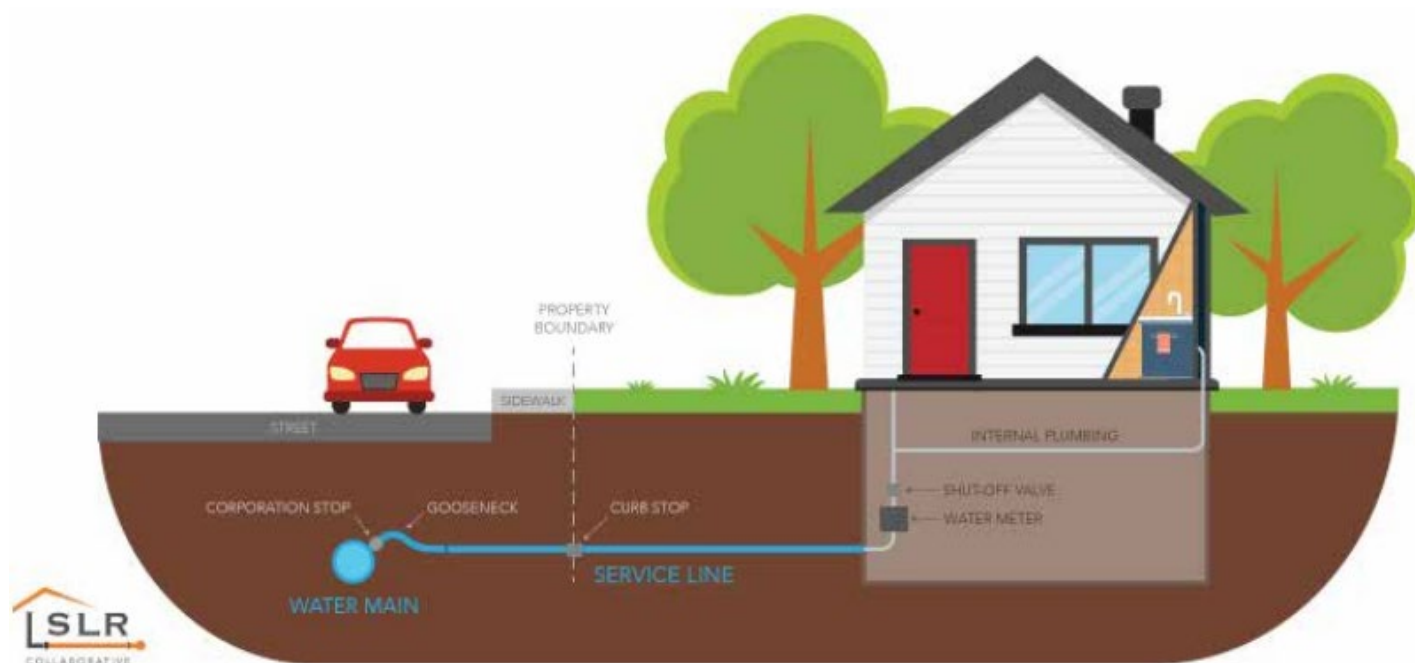
LEAD SERVICE LINE REPLACEMENT

BENTON HARBOR, MICHIGAN

On October 14, 2021, Governor Whitmer called for the [replacement of lead service lines in Benton Harbor in 18 months](#). Tap water tests in Benton Harbor have failed to meet the regulatory standard for lead for six consecutive sampling periods over the last three years. The Governor initiated an all-hands-on-deck approach, including assistance from state, federal, local, and municipal governments as well as organizations and the community itself, to ensure access to safe drinking water for its residents.

What does it mean to replace service lines?

Service lines are the underground pipes that deliver water from the water main to a home. Each service line or connection may consist of multiple plumbing material types including, but not limited to, lead, copper, galvanized iron, and plastic. Replacement of lines means that both the public (water main to curb) and private (curb to home) portions of the service line along with connections are all replaced.



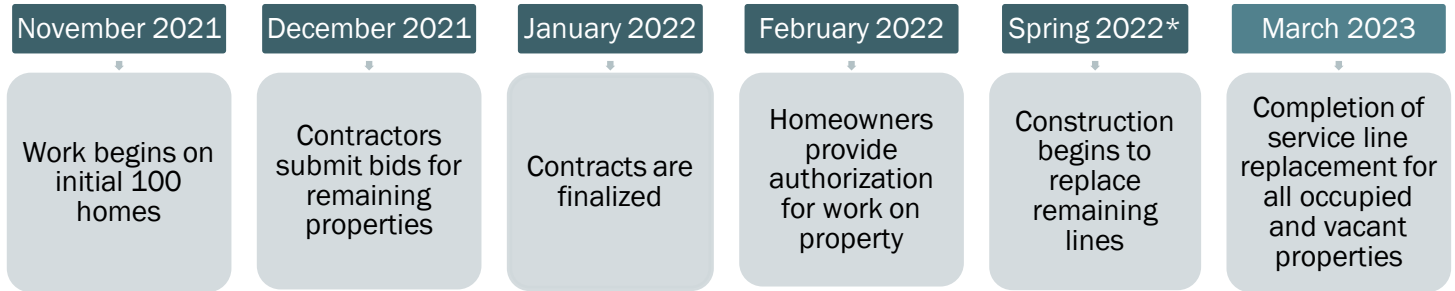
Why is it important to replace lines?

The replacement of lead service lines and connections is imperative as lead can leach into the water resulting in elevated lead levels in those who drink it. Lead exposure can be harmful to humans, especially infants and children, and can result in developmental delays, speech and language problems, decreased bone and muscle growth, and damage to the nervous systems and kidneys, among other issues.

What happens next?

The City of Benton Harbor has finalized a contract for the replacement of lines for the first 100 homes of the estimated nearly 6,000 residential, commercial, and other occupied and vacated properties. Additional contracts will be secured to begin the next phase of construction in the spring of 2022.

Homeowner authorization is needed prior to work beginning. The steps for the service line replacement project and target dates are highlighted below.



*Exact date is weather dependent

Call 269-926-4579 to have your lead line removed FOR FREE!

Contact Joelle Regovich, Abonmarche: jregovich@abonmarche.com | 269-926-4579



EGLE promotes the equitable treatment and meaningful involvement of Michigan's residents regarding the development, implementation, and enforcement of laws, regulations, and policies. Equitable treatment means that no group of people bears a disproportionate share of the negative consequences resulting from governmental, industrial, or commercial operations and policies. Meaningful involvement means all people have an opportunity to participate in decisions that affect their environment and/or health.

EGLE does not discriminate on the basis of race, sex, religion, age, national origin, color, marital status, disability, political beliefs, height, weight, genetic information, or sexual orientation in the administration of any of its programs or activities, and prohibits intimidation and retaliation, as required by applicable laws and regulations.

To request this material in an alternative format, contact EGLE-Accessibility@Michigan.gov or call 800-662-9278.